

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Maudy Simpson-Wright, because she is definitely the epitome of an unsung hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELITE
PUREED MEALS

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elite Pureed Meals of Broomall, Pennsylvania for earning a Chester and Delaware County SCORE 2017 Small Business Award.

SCORE is a non-profit organization that helps small businesses by providing them with mentorship and educational workshops. Small businesses that earn a SCORE award "have demonstrated unique vision, innovation and achievement in support of America's economy and small business community."

Elite Pureed Meals deserves this designation. Colleen McCloskey was inspired to create Elite Pureed Meals while she operated an in-home care service. She witnessed a client lose a dangerous amount of weight due to swallowing difficulties and the unappealing food prepared for someone with that symptom. Colleen knew how important it was for him to have access to nutritious and appealing meals. She dedicated her small business to securing that access. Elite Pureed Meals prepares and delivers frozen pureed meals to those with swallowing disorders, helping them maintain a balanced diet and stay healthy.

I congratulate Elite Pureed Meals on their award. I am proud to serve them and the other small businesses in Pennsylvania's 7th District.

SULLIVAN COUNTY VETERANS
CEMETERY

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a speech I delivered at the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery on May 29, 2017.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished hosts, our Gold Star Mothers, and all honored guests: Thank you for gathering here with us on this observance of Memorial Day. It is my great privilege and distinct honor to speak to you today.

Memorial Day. A day of remembrance to our fallen soldiers. A day when all Americans are reminded of those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms. This is perhaps best honored by the phrase uttered by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg. They gave to the cause of liberty, he said, "their last full measure of devotion."

Here in the 19th Congressional District, the history of our Sullivan County neighbors has made an everlasting contribution to the principles of self-sacrifice, patriotism and freedom we commemorate each Memorial Day.

Sullivan County is the namesake of Major General John Sullivan, an officer of the Revolutionary War. Sullivan was a lawyer, poli-

tician, prisoner of war and military tactician who was selected by George Washington to carry out a difficult campaign against British forces and Loyalists in what was then the borderlands of New York and Pennsylvania. Sullivan was a towering figure who believed in the American experiment and rejected the entreaties of the British to lure him to their side. He had his feet planted firmly in the soil of this continent.

During the Civil War, New York provided more men and munitions to the Union cause than any other state. But it was Sullivan County that let the men march. Over 80 percent of all the leather goods used by the Union side were conditioned in the tanning vats of Sullivan County, including Monticello's 143rd Infantry Regiment. It has been said with justification that "the Civil War was won with boots tanned in Sullivan County." Each step of the journey to preserve the Union and destroy the evil of slavery began here.

Here at the Veterans Cemetery, we have a visual reminder in the form of Sgt. Kenneth Von Ronn's M60A3 tank. Sgt. Von Ronn was killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was laid to rest in this place, downhill from his tank, fittingly inscribed on the marker as a "trooper and his mount." The vehicle today stands guard for all those here, opposing America's enemies for all eternity.

At Arlington National Cemetery, the 3rd US Infantry, the Old Guard, adorns thousands upon thousands of rows of headstones with American flags each Memorial Day. Each austere monument stands in perfect symmetry with the next. This is an act of gratitude to each individual warrior and the nation as a whole.

Memorial Day is an enduring reminder of those who gave their lives for our nation. We live in a time when only a small percentage of American families have someone who is serving on either active duty or in the reserves. As such, it is all the more important that we gather together on this solemn day to honor their sacrifice.

So too on this day, our obligation is not just to remember. It is also to teach our children and grandchildren that our liberty is more than just the words of the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Those documents are the foundation stones of our system of government and the truth that governments derive their powers from the people and not the other way around. And further that the inalienable rights we enjoy as a free people come from God and not from government.

But none of this would be possible without the sacrifice of those we remember today. Inscribed on statuary at the National Archives building in Washington is the phrase "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty." We need to constantly remind ourselves that freedom is not free. Our liberties are guaranteed us by our Constitution and Bill of Rights; but they were also made possible by the determination of multiple generations of Americans who answered their nation's call and who defended our liberties to the last breath on the fields of battle.

We stand on the shoulders of the fallen today. We owe them our eternal gratitude; our respect; and that their collective sacrifice is forever etched onto our collective memories.

I recently read a quote attributed to the son of a U.S. soldier killed in Afghanistan. He said of his father: "His life was not taken: It was given, to his country."

His life was not taken: it was given, so that others can live in freedom and liberty. That truly sums up what we should always remember about those we honor on Memorial Day. May God bless our fallen soldiers and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING JACK SCHLEETER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack Schleeter. Jack is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jack has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jack has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jack has served his troop as an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, become a member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jack has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jack constructed two 8 x 12 foot planters outside St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Liberty, Missouri, filling the planters with 6 bushes and 24 perennials.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jack Schleeter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for its efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CECILIA
LAIDEMITT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Cecilia Laidemitt, the Associate Superintendent of Personnel and Administrative Services for the South Whittier School District. After a dedicated and impactful 52 years with the district, Mrs. Laidemitt is retiring at the end of this school year.

Mrs. Laidemitt is appreciated and admired by many in this community, and has set a high bar for those to follow her. From a young age, Mrs. Laidemitt knew teaching was her dream. She attended Whittier College, and later received her teaching credentials and began her career at Los Altos Elementary School.

Over the years she has served in a number of roles including teacher, principal, and Director of Curriculum. In each position she has brought her inspiring attitude and passion for learning. Mrs. Laidemitt often stated how she "loved seeing the light go on for students." And it's this passion that has made her successful and cherished.

Her dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed in the community; she is beloved by all she encounters. A truly admirable public servant, I wish Mrs. Laidemitt a happy and well-deserved retirement. You are an inspiration to us all, and your wisdom and kindness will be greatly missed.